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AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

*DID THE COLONISTS DESIRE IT?*

LETTERS OF JOHN JAY AND JOHN ADAMS.

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LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

OF OTHER

ACTORS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. -





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COMPILED BY  
JEREMIAH COLBURN.  
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BOSTON :

1876.

"Hutchinson says that, as early as 1765, Samuel Adams owned without reserve, in private discourse, that he was for the independence of the colonies, and adds, that 'from time to time he made advances towards it in public, as far as would serve to the great purpose of attaining to it.'"  
—*Life of Samuel Adams*.

"The character of your Mr. Samuel Adams runs very high here. I find many who consider him the first politician in the world. I have found more reason every day to convince me that he has been right, when others supposed him wrong."—*Josiah Quincy, Jr.*, London, 1774.

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## DID THE AMERICAN COLONISTS DESIRE INDEPENDENCE ?

THE following letters from John Jay and Ex-President John Adams to the translator of Botta's "History of the American Revolution" are copied from the originals in my possession. The letter of Mr. Jay is entirely autograph; but only the signature in that of Mr. Adams is in his handwriting.

These letters will be read with interest; for they give important information as to the state of feeling previous to the Revolution in the British American Colonies in regard to independence of the English crown.

### *Letter of John Jay.*

Bedford, West Chester County, State of New York, 13<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1821.

Sir

I have rec<sup>d</sup> your Letter of the 23<sup>d</sup> ult—expressing a Desire that Botta's History and your Translation of it, may have my approbation—And also that I would mention to you the most authentic of the Documents which are before the Public, relative to the negociations at Paris in 1782.

Having as yet rec<sup>d</sup> and read *only* the *first* volume of the History, I cannot form, and consequently cannot express, an opinion of the whole work.

As to the *first* volume—there are in it certain assertions, Representations, and Suggestions, of which there are some which I believe to be *erroneous*, and others which I suspect to be inaccurate. Being too feeble either to write or to read much at a Time without Fatigue; I forbear to enumerate them. I will nevertheless, for your satisfaction, select and notice one of the most important—viz<sup>t</sup>.

That anterior to the Revolution, there existed in the Colonies a Desire of Independence.

The following extracts respect this Topic :—

Page 10. "The Love of the Sovereign and their ancient country, which the first colonists might have retained in their new Establishments, gradually diminished in the Hearts of their Descendants."

P. 11. "The greater part of the Colonists had heard nothing of Great Britain, excepting that it was a distant Kingdom, from which their ancestors had been barbarously expelled."

P. 12. "As the means of Constraint became almost illusory in the Hands of the Government, there must have arisen and gradually increased in the minds of the Americans, the Hope and with it the Desire to shake off the Yoke of English superiority." "The Colonists supported *impatiently* the superiority of the British Government."

P. 15. "Such was the State of the English colonies in America, such the *opinions* and *Dispositions* of those who inhabited them, about the *middle* of the Eighteenth century." "It was impossible that they should have remained ignorant of what they were capable; and that the progressive Development of national Pride should not have rendered the British Yoke *intolerable*."

P. 33. "Already those who were the most zealous for Liberty, or the most ambitious, had formed in the secret of their hearts the Resolution to shake off the Yoke of England whenever a favorable occasion should present. This Design was encouraged by the recent cession of Canada."

P. 199. "The Colonists looked upon (the Congress of 1774) as a convention of men who in some mode or other, were to deliver their country from the Perils that menaced it. The greater part believed that their ability &c would enable them to obtain from the Government, a Removal of the Evils that oppressed them, and the Re-establishment of the ancient order of Things. Some others cherished the Belief, that they would find means to conduct the American nation to that Independence, which was the *first* and most ardent of their aspirations or rather the sole Object of that intense passion, which stung and tormented them, night and Day."

P. 314. "Both (Putnam and Ward) had declared themselves too openly in favor of Independence. The congress desired indeed to procure it, but withal in a propitious Time."

P. 388. Thus ceased, as we have related, the Royal Authority in the different Provinces. It was replaced progressively by that of the People; that is by congresses or conventions extraordinary, that were formed in each Colony. But this was deemed insufficient by those, who *directed* the affairs of America—their *real* Object being *Independence*."

Explicit Professions and Assurances of Allegiance and Loyalty to the Sovereign (especially since the accession of King William) and of affection for the mother Country, abound in the Journals of the colonial Legislatures, and of the congresses and conventions, from early Periods to the second Petition of congress in 1775.

If those Professions and Assurances were sincere, they afford Evidence more than sufficient to invalidate the charge of our desiring and aiming at Independence.

If, on the other hand, those Professions and Assurances were factitious and deceptive, they present to the world an unprecedented Instance of long-continued, concurrent, and detestable Duplicity in the colonies. Our country does not deserve this odious and disgusting Imputation. During the course of my Life, and until after the second Petition of congress (in 1775), I never did hear any American, of any class, or of any Description, express a wish for the Independence of the colonies.

Few Americans had more or better means and Opportunities of becoming acquainted with the Sentiments and Disposition of the colonists relative to public affairs than the late Doct<sup>r</sup> Franklin. In a letter to his son, dated the 22 March, 1775, he relates a conversation which he had with Lord Chat-ham in the preceding month of August. His Lordship having mentioned

an opinion prevailing in England, that America aimed at setting up for itself as an independent State, the Doct<sup>r</sup> thus expressed himself.

"I assured him, that having more than once travelled almost from one End of the continent to the other, and kept a great variety of company, eating, drinking and conversing with them freely, I never had heard, in any Conversation, from any Person, drunk or sober, the least Expression of a wish for a Separation; or a Hint that such a Thing would be advantageous to America."

It does not appear to me necessary to enlarge further on this subject. It has always been, and still is, my Opinion and Belief, that our country was prompted and impelled to Independence by necessity and not by choice. They who know how we were *then* circumstanced, know from whence that necessity resulted.

It would indeed be extraordinary if a Foreigner, remote (like Mr Botta) from the best Sources of authentic Information, should in writing such a History, commit no mistakes. That Gentleman doubtless believed his narrations to be true. But it is not improbable that he sometimes selected his materials with too little apprehension of Error; and that some of his Informers were too little scrupulous. This Remark derives a degree of Weight from the following Passage in the History, viz<sup>t</sup>:

General Montgomery "left a Wife, the Object of all his Tenderness, with several children, still Infants—a spectacle for their country, at once of Pity and Admiration. The State, from Gratitude towards their Father, distinguish<sup>d</sup> them with every mark of Kindness and Protection."

I have been acquainted with General Montgomery's Widow from my Youth. The fact is, she never had a child.

In making the Translation, attention has doubtless been paid to the Rule that a Translator should convey into his Translation with Perspicuity and Precision, the Ideas of his Author, and no others; and express them, not literally, but in well adapted classical Language. How far your Translation is exactly correct, I am an incompetent Judge; for, not understanding the Language of the original, I cannot examine and compare the Translation with it. Of the style and manner of the Translation, I think well.

Which are the most authentic Documents before the Public, relative to the negotiations at Paris in 1782? is a question which I am not in capacity to answer. Many years have elapsed since I have read any of them; and others have since been published, which I have not seen. Without a previous and careful Examination of each of them, it would be rash and unfair to give a Preference to either.

On receiving your *first* Letter, I conjectured that you was of the respectable Family of *your name* in Massachusetts; and that conjecture appears from your *last* to have been well founded. If in going from Philadelphia to Boston, you should not find it inconvenient to take the Road through this Town, you will meet with a welcome Reception from

Sir your obt<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

George Alexander Otis Esq<sup>r</sup>.

JOHN JAY.

The 2<sup>d</sup> Vol. was brought here this Evening.

[Addressed: "George Alexander Otis, Esq<sup>r</sup> | Philadelphia."]

*Letter of John Adams.*Montezillo, February 9<sup>th</sup> 1821.

Dear Sir

I thank you for your favour of the 29 January, and your Translation of Botta. I have not yet read it for I received it but yesterday, and reading is to me so laborious, and painful an occupation, that it requires a long time. But I cannot refrain from expressing the pleasure I have received from the reasoning of Mr. Jay, upon the passage from Botta—"That antierior to the Revolution there existed in the Colonies a desire of Independence." There is great ambiguity in the expression, there existed in the Colonies a desire of Independence—it is true there always existed in the Colonies a desire of Independence of Parliament, in the articles of internal Taxation, and Internal policy; and a very general if not a universal opinion, that they were Constitutionally entitled to it, and as general a determination if possible, to maintain, and defend it—but there never existed a desire of Independence of the Crown, or of general regulations of Commerce, for the equal and impartial benefit of all parts of the Empire.—It is true there might be times and circumstances in which an Individual, or few Individuals, might entertain and express a wish that America was Independent in all respects, but these were "rari nantes in gurgite vasto." For example in one thousand seven hundred and fifty six, seven, and eight, the conduct of the British Generals Shirley, Braddock, Loudon, Webb and Abercromby was so absurd, disastrous, and destructive, that a very general opinion prevailed that the War was conducted by a mixture of Ignorance, Treachery and Cowardice, and some persons wished we had nothing to do with Great Britain for ever. Of this number I distinctly remember, I was myself one, fully believing that we were able to defend ourselves against the French and Indians, without any assistance or embarrassment from Great Britain. In fifty eight and fifty nine, when Amherst and Wolfe changed the fortune of the War, by a more able and faithful conduct of it, I again rejoiced in the name of Britain, and should have rejoiced in it, to this day, had not the King and Parliament committed high Treason and Rebellion against America as soon as they had conquered Canada, and made Peace with France. That there existed a general desire of Independence of the Crown in any part of America before the Revolution, is as far from the truth, as the Zenith is from the Nadir. That the encroaching disposition of Great Britain was early foreseen by many wise men, in all the States, would one day attempt to enslave them, by an unlimited submission to Parliament, and rule them with a rod of Iron; that this attempt would produce resistance on the part of America, and an awful struggle was also foreseen but dreaded and deprecated as the greatest Calamity that could befall them. For my own part, there was not a moment during the Revolution, when I would not have given every thing I possessed for a restoration to the State of things before the Contest began, provided we could have had any sufficient security for its continuance. I always dreaded the Revolution as fraught with ruin, to me and my family, and indeed it has been but little better. I could entertain you with many little trifling anecdotes which though familiar and vulgar, would indicate the temper, feelings, and forebodings among the people, that I cannot write.

I see at the end of the Biography, of the Author, that Botta has written the Biography of John Adams.—I never saw, or heard of it before, but if



he means me, it must be a curious mess, for he can certainly have no authentic information on the very insignificant subject.

George Alexander Otis, Esq<sup>re</sup>

I am Sir, Your obliged friend  
and humble servant,

JOHN ADAMS.

## DOCUMENTS AND LETTERS BY ACTORS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,

IN THE COLLECTION OF THE COMPILER.

*Gen. Sir Robert Pigot.*

GEN. Pigot was commander of the thirty-eighth regiment at the battle of Bunker Hill. He was thanked in general orders for the prominent part he took in the engagement. His regiment had nine officers among the killed and wounded.

"Here the firm animating PIGOT fought,  
His warlike flame the gallant leaders caught;  
The privates felt its force, from man to man  
T' excell in fight an emulation ran."  
*Cocking's Poem, London, 1781.*

Mr. Wheeler,

Will you be so good as to let my Landlord or his Brother know if you can find an Opportunity that I do not intend to be his Tenant any longer after the year expires, as I am obliged to reside on this side the water & can have but little Use & no Enjoyment of his House. If he has no Objection my Serv<sup>t</sup> shall continue in it & a Sentry kept at the gate till he can provide a Tenant, or will send any one to take care of it

I am Sir

Bunker's Hill

24 July [1775]

yr. very Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

R<sup>t</sup>. PIGOT.

*Gen. John Thomas.*

He was born in Marshfield, Mass., 1725, and died in Chamblee, Canada, June 2, 1776.

"By the way, I must do justice to Thomas; he is a good officer, and is esteemed. We have no trouble with his camp; it is always in good order, and things are conducted with dignity and spirit in the military style."—*James Warren to Samuel Adams, June 21, 1775.*

Roxbury Feb<sup>y</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Rec<sup>d</sup>. of Cap<sup>t</sup> Amos Turner two pounds Nine Shillings & Eight pence half penny which being the Balance of Wages Due from Said Cap<sup>t</sup> Turner to M<sup>r</sup> Calvin Garnet a Private in said Turner's Company

JN<sup>o</sup> THOMAS

*John Glover, Brigadier General.*

He joined the army at Cambridge in 1775 with 1000 men from Marblehead, was in the advance of the army which crossed the Delaware on the night of the 25th of December, 1776. "I think I may tell you without flattery, that I know of no man better qualified than you to conduct a brigade."—*Washington to Glover, April 26, 1777.*

Sir,

I rec<sup>d</sup> yours by your boy respecting the swivils Borrow<sup>d</sup> for the Use of y<sup>e</sup> American Navey. Doubtless you remember when I rec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>r</sup> Guns, it was agreed that if they should be Lost, I was to see you paid four pounds for the pair, agreeable to that I maid my return to General Washington I therefore Cannot of my self pay a greater Prise. I think if I mistake not I gave you a Receipt for that amount which if you will receive, I will Desier Cap<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Bartlett to pay.

I am Sir yours &c.

JOHN GLOVER.

Beverly Feb<sup>y</sup>. 29. 1776.

[Addressed: "To Cap<sup>t</sup> John White Jun<sup>r</sup> | In Salem"]

*Col. James Lockwood.*

He was aid to Maj.-General David Wooster.

Camp. before Quebec, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

Dear Sir

I have just received your favour of yesterday & say in answer—The Gen<sup>l</sup> [Wooster] thinks it will be better that M<sup>r</sup> Lizott should be sent by Water than through the Country—with regard to the two Vessels Cap<sup>t</sup> Tenyck who takes command of Peppers Schooner has Orders to take up all suspected Vessels & boats & those two, have been mentioned to him, he will stop at Point au Tremble, the Gen<sup>l</sup> therefore desires you to direct him, at any rate to secnre those Vessels, he will receive proper information from you concerning them—remember me affectionately to your family & believe me your most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

Cap<sup>t</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Neil—

JA<sup>s</sup> LOCKWOOD

[Addressed: "To Cap<sup>n</sup> Hector M<sup>c</sup>Neil | at | Point au Tremble"]

*Maj.-General David Wooster.*

He was born in Stratford, Conn., 1710, and died May 2, 1777, from wounds received in an engagement with British troops at Danbury, Conn., 27th April, 1777.

Camp Before Quebec, April 26<sup>th</sup> 1776

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for the information you give me in yours of yesterday which I have received & say in answer—I shall write Gen<sup>l</sup> Arnold concerning the Acadien & also to arrest Palmer—

I have Ordered four Bar<sup>ls</sup> Pork to be sent you from here should be glad you would send two of them to Cap<sup>n</sup> Scott if you can possibly procure flour at Point au Tremble I hope in a few days to be able to replace Cash for it. I am informed that M<sup>r</sup> Cole with a large sum was left at Crownpoint & was every hour expected at Montreal.

With regard to the Gaspee please to procure a Pilot & put some hands on board of her from Cap<sup>n</sup> Church's party & send her to Jackes Cartier with Orders to be left ashore there—Let Matherman follow his Cap<sup>t</sup>. The Articles for the Maria with a Gunner were sent from this place yesterday, I have sent for Cap<sup>n</sup> Goforth from three Rivers a very good man, to take charge of her—Prince, Pepper's Mate I shall send after immediately—Give me leave to congratulate you upon the Good News from Boston & believe me most affectionately your very

hble Serv<sup>t</sup>

DAVID WOOSTER.

My Comp<sup>ts</sup> to your family  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Mc Neil

[Superscribed: "On the Service of the United Colonies"]

Addressed: "To Cap<sup>n</sup> Hector McNeil | at | Point au Tremble"]

*Col. Elias Dayton.*

In 1759 he was in the army under General Wolfe at Quebec. He joined the American army in 1775, and was in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Springfield, and at the Siege of Yorktown.

Fort Stanwix July 18<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Dr Sir

The bearer — Schuyler has just returned from a scout to Oswego where he says everything is as yet quiet he saw a horse & a number of Cows there which he says can be easily brought off if General Schuyler Approves of the scheme I will send proper persons with Schuyler to effect it if the Cows are left a little longer without doubt our enemy's will possess them—I expect tomorrow to dismiss two scouts towards Oswegotse hope to be allways so much upon our guard as to prevent being surprised by our barbarous enemies what do you think of seting fire to Fort Ontario

E. D.

*Maj.-Gen. William Heath.*

He was born in Roxbury, Mass., March 2, 1737; and died there Jan. 24, 1814. In early life entered into military duties, in 1761 and 1771-4 was a member of the legislature; was a member of the committees of Safety and Correspondence and a delegate to the Provincial Congress in 1774-5. He joined the army in 1775, and continued till the close of the war.

Head Q<sup>rs</sup>. Boston, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1776.

Sir,

You will immediately repair to and take the Command of Castle Island.

I am Sir

your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

L<sup>t</sup> Col<sup>l</sup> Revere

W. HEATH, M. Gen<sup>l</sup>

*John Gooch.*

New Jersey. Fort Constitution, Sept. 23. 1776.

Sir

The many favors Received from you will ever hold a gratfull place in my heart, and I flatter myself a Letter will not prove disagreeable as I look on myself obliged in gratitude to let you hear from me, as I know you must be anctious for the certainty of events of which you can have at that distance but a confused account, as I was on the spot will endeavor to give you as Concise & Just account as possible; on the 15th Inst we evacuated New York & took all stores of every kind out of the City, and took Possession of hights of Haerlem eight miles from the City, the Enimy incamp'd about two miles from us; on the 16<sup>th</sup> the Eninimy advanced and took Possession of a hight on our Right Flank ab<sup>t</sup> half a mile Distance with about 3000 men, a Party from our Brigade of 150 men who turned out as Volunteers under the command of Lieut. Col<sup>o</sup> Crary of the Regmt<sup>t</sup> I belong to were ordered out if possible to dispossess them, in about 20 minits the Engagement began with as terrible a fire as ever I heard, when Orders came for the whole Brigage immediately to march to support the first detachment, the Brigade Consisted of ab<sup>t</sup> 900 men, we immediately formed in front of the Enimy and march'd up in good order through their fire, which was incessant till within 70 yards when we Engaged them in that situation we engaged them for one hour and eight minits, when the Enimy Broke & Ran, we persued them to the next hights, when we were ordered to Retreat Our lose does not exceed in killed and wounded twenty five men, the lose of the Enimy was very considerable but cannot be ascertained, as we observed them to carry of their dead and wounded the whole time of the Engagement, they left a Number of killed and wounded on the Field of Battle & a great number of small Armes, the great Superiority of Numbers and every other advantage the Enemy had, when considered makes the Victory Glorious, and tho' but over a part of their Army yet the Consequences of it are attended with advantages very great, as they immediately quited the hights all round us and have not been troublesome sinse, our people behaved with the greatest Spirit, and the New England men have gained the first Lawrells. I received a slight wound in the Anckle at the first of the Engagement but never quited the Field during the Engagement. I'm now Ready to give them the second part whenever they have an appetite, as I'm convinced whenever stir from their Ships we shall drubb them.

Every thing here is very dear Rum 16s. l. my: p<sup>r</sup> Galls and every thing in proportion. I expect to see you in Jan<sup>y</sup> if heaven spares me when perhaps may fall on a scene that you may think advantageous as it will be impossible for me to stay in the Army for eight pounds p<sup>r</sup> month should esteem myself very in having a line, my Best Respects to your Lady & Family.

I am with a due sense of obligations

Your oblig'd & most obd<sup>t</sup> Servant

JOHN GOOCH.

[Addressed: "To Thomas Fayerweather Esq | Merch<sup>t</sup> | In | Boston"]

*William White.*

Fort Washington October 5<sup>th</sup> 1776.

Mr. Comasery Cuts S<sup>r</sup> pleyse to Let the Baiere have the Rum for Twenty seven men on fortugue

WILLIAM WHITE Liu<sup>t</sup>



*Robert Morris, Philip Livingston, Richard H. Lee, William Whipple  
and Francis Lewis.*

In Secret Committee  
of Congress.

Philad<sup>d</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1776.

Gent<sup>n</sup>.

A Committee of Congress was appointed the 25<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. to procure Cloathing in all the States on this Continent for the use of our Army and we find they wrote to you on the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. requesting the favour of you to employ proper persons to purchase what cou'd be obtained in your State to this letter they have not rec'd any answer and the Congress being very anxious and impatient to have this important business duely attended to & executed have directed us to send one or more trusty persons into the Eastern States to collect what has been bought & to make such further purchases of suitable articles as they can accomplish. We have engaged Messrs Ab<sup>m</sup> Livingston & W<sup>m</sup> Turnbull bearers hereof to go upon this Service. You will be pleased to direct them to the persons who have made purchases on Continental acc't by order, & let the Goods be delivered to these Gent<sup>m</sup> or their order. We have also by direction of Congress authorized them to make further purchases & must beg the favour of your advice and assistance to them in the prosecution of that business, or that you will desire your Committee to give them such assistance.

We have judg'd it dangerous to send a large amount of money with them at this time on acc<sup>t</sup> of the situation of our Enemy neither cou'd we judge what sum might be sufficient, therefore we request you will order them to be supplied out of your Public Treasury if needfull, their drafts on this Committee for the amount shall be Paid & if desired the money shall be sent by express. Your Zeal to serve the general cause on all occasions makes us satisfied of your concurrence with our desires & we remain with the utmost respect

Gent<sup>n</sup>.

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> & most  
h<sup>b</sup>le Serv<sup>ts</sup>.

ROB<sup>t</sup>. MORRIS.  
PHIL. LIVINGSTON.  
RICHARD HENRY LEE.  
W<sup>m</sup> WHIPPLE.  
FRA: LEWIS.

To

The Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Assembly of  
Massachusetts Bay.

*Gen. George Clinton.*

In October, 1777, Forts Montgomery and Clinton, on the Hudson river, were bravely defended by Gen. Clinton and his brother Gen. James Clinton—the latter being badly wounded. He was the first governor of the State of New-York, holding the office for eighteen years, being active in both civil and military offices during the war.

March 3<sup>d</sup> 1777

Sir

You are not upon any Pretence whatever unless obliged by the stress of weather to land upon Long Island nor to suffer any of your Men so to do—nor are you or any of your men in such Case to plunder or distress any of the Inhabitants whatever their political Principles or characters may be and these Instructions you are to follow at your Peril.

To Cap<sup>t</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Smith Scudder

*Maj.-General William Heath, Capt. Thomas Jackson and Major Jonathan Pollard.*

An Abstract for Six Weeks Pay from the first Day of January 1777 for a Detachment of Men under the Command of Cap<sup>t</sup> L<sup>t</sup>. Thomas Jackson of the Artillery

1 Sergeant	.	.	a 60s.	.	.	£. 4. 4. 0
1 Corporal	.	.	a 55s.	.	.	3. 17. 0
1 Bombardier	.	.	a 55s.	.	.	3. 17. 0
1 Gunner	.	.	a 55s.	.	.	3. 17. 0
14 Matrosses	.	.	a 50s.	.	.	49. 0 0
						<hr/> 64. 15. 0

To Travelling Money Due for 18

Men from Peekskill to Boston Beign

220 Miles a 20 Miles for 1 Days Travelling

the Whole Amount

}	16. 10. 0
	<hr/>
	£. 81. 5. 0

THOMAS JACKSON Cap<sup>t</sup> L<sup>t</sup>. Artillery

Roxbury, March 13<sup>th</sup> 1777.

Received of Major-General Heath the above abstract in full

THOS<sup>s</sup> JACKSON Cap<sup>t</sup> L<sup>t</sup> Artillery

To Ebenezer Hancock Esq. Deputy Paymaster General to

The Forces of the United States of America

Sir

Pay to Major Jonathan Pollard Two Hundred and Seventy Dollars  $\frac{5}{8}$  as a refund of the within, for which this shall be your Sufficient Warrant

Given at Head Quarters

W. HEATH, M.G.

Boston March 29<sup>th</sup> 1777

Received the above for Major-General Heath,

JON<sup>a</sup> POLLARD A D<sup>c</sup>

*Gen. Joseph Spencer.*

He held the rank of Major in the colonial army in 1756. He was appointed Brigadier-General in the continental army, June 22, 1775, and Major-General Aug. 9, 1776. In 1777 he was in command of the forces on Rhode Island. He resigned June, 1778, and was elected a delegate to Congress the same year. He died at East-Haddam, Conn., January, 1789, aged 75 years.

Providence 10<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1777

Sir

According to agreement with M<sup>r</sup> Adams when here I wrote to him to be here to pay the Troops the beginning of this Week and according to his desire ordered the Officers to be here ready with their abstracts, and not until yesterday did I know but that the Cash would be ready. Yesterday Sundry Officers came for their pay, and then I Rec<sup>d</sup> a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> Adams informing that he had no Cash to bring which is a very unhappy disappointment to the Troops and happening at the present Juncture is very prejudicial to me in my Command at this place and indeed I am in absolute need of Three or Four Thousand pounds of Cash to provide for the necessary subsistence of the Army—I think, Sir, out of what Cash you have I ought to have my part. I must depend on some. I shall soon be at Boston

on other business as well as this, when I shall wait on you relative to this matter.

I am Sir your Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

JO<sup>s</sup> SPENCER M.G.

Eben<sup>r</sup> Hancock Esq.

[Addressed: "On publick Service" "Eben<sup>r</sup> Hancock Esq | D<sup>y</sup> Pay  
Master Gen<sup>l</sup> | to the Eastern Department | Boston"]

*Col. Jonathan Trumbull.*

In 1775-8 he was paymaster of the northern department of the army, and in 1780 first aide-de-camp to Washington, with whom he remained until the close of the war. This letter is franked by his father, "Brother Jonathan," the friend of Washington.

Sir

Lebanon 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1778

The Draft from Continental Treasury Board in my Favor on your office for 200,000 Dollars which was protested by you on the 10<sup>th</sup> of last Month has been to Congress, & is now returned to me again, with Instructions "to hold it in my Custody, untill there shall be Cash in the Massachusetts Loan Office for supplying the Amount which the Treasury Board are assured will, by partial Payments, be compleated at no very distant Period." You will be so good Sir, as to inform me pr this Messenger, what Prospect there is of the money being obtained—to prevent Trouble & Expence I shall be glad to be furnished with the whole Sum att one Payment if possible, if that cannot be soon compleated, our necessities will oblige me to call for a partial Payment whenever you inform of any considerable Part being ready. Our Department has already suffered very Deeply by the Disappointments occasioned by M<sup>r</sup> Hancock's unaccountable Delay—or non Information of the first Draft which was Dated 16<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>o</sup>—On which, if it had been forwarded agreeable to the Expectations of Congress I am told the Money might have been received—the money for supply of this Failure, has not yet been furnished at my office—the Distress of many for Want of it is great—great Part of which falls on the Militia of your State—who are at this Day unpaid for their Services in Gen<sup>l</sup> Gates army last Fall

I send this pr special Messinger who will wait your Reply.

I am Sir

Your most humble Servant

Nathan<sup>l</sup> Appleton Esq

JON<sup>a</sup> Trumbull Jun<sup>r</sup>. P. M. G.  
Northern Department

[Superscribed, "Public Service"  
franked "Jonathan Trumbull"]

Addressed: "Nathaniel Appleton Esq | Commissioner of Loan Office |  
State of Massachusetts Bay"]

*Lord Stirling (William Alexander).*

He was born New-York city in 1726, and died Albany, Jan. 15, 1783. He was a Colonel in 1775, and was made a Brigadier-General by Congress, March, 1776. He distinguished himself in various battles during the Revolution.

Aquakanoock Octobr 5. 1778.

Dr Sir

I must desire that you will immediately march with your whole force including militia up to the Heights near Second River, a detachment of the Enemy is on the heights near Arant Schylers, you will Do your best to Anoy them in Case they should Attempt to pass the River below us. Let me hear from you as often as possible

I am

Colonel Dayton.

your most Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>

Elizabeth Town

STIRLING

let the River be examined to see if they have any boats in it.

[Addressed: "To Co<sup>l</sup> Dayton | Elizabeth Town"]

*Gen. Rufus Putnam.*

He was born in Sutton, Mass., April 9, 1738, and died at Marietta, Ohio, May 4, 1824. In 1775 he joined the army of the Revolution as a Lieut. Colonel in the regiment of Col. David Brewer. He served with distinction as an engineer and commander until the close of the war.

Coller Barrack February y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>. 1779.

Sir.

I send you six men to chop logs you will Quarter them and Employ them as you think propper if a Sawyer is wanted I can furnish one.

Yours.

To Cap<sup>t</sup> Flowers

R PUTNAM Col<sup>o</sup>

P. S. The Mens Names  
are

Jonathan Harwood

Enoch Fuller

Isaac Train

John Church

John Cummins

John Ayres.

[Addressed: "To Cap<sup>t</sup> Flowers"]

*Richard Henry Lee.*

Philadelphia March 29, 1779.

Dear Sir,

I am honored with your favor of the 19<sup>th</sup>. and thank you for it. I always thought too well of your wisdom and justice to suppose you could be influenced by the most groundless, ill designing, and improbable calumnies that ever were devised by wicked minds. From the most intimate confidential correspondence and from the best information, I have abundant reason to be satisfied that both my brothers in Europe are as firmly attached to the independence and happiness of America as any men that breathe the vital air. I should detest them if I thought otherwise, or had any reason to think of them than as I have above expressed. A strict adherence to duty, active Services for their Country, and opposition to public peculation has drawn this calumny on them. Mr Ford being such a man as you describe,



and having with him authentic documents to prove that he had been confided in by one of these States might well impose upon Dr. Lee who was an utter stranger to any misconduct that he had been guilty of here. I will answer for it, that he wont remain an hour in his employment after the Doctor knows his character. I shall be greatly concerned indeed if we have been so unfortunate as to have lost the military Stores that you expected. But since Dr. Lee does not mention anything in his letters to me about having shipped them, and not having seen any mention of such capture in the N. York papers, I yet hope they may be safe. Tis true the number of privateers that avarice and enmity have equipped from N. York & Bermuda to cruise on our trade is very great indeed. I think by their list they amount to more than eighty. Some Frigates are ordered to clear our Coast of these Rovers, and I hope they will be successful. But this destination of our Frigates ought not to be made public. I wish with all my heart we had any important intelligence to communicate to you. I know of none, unless what I have before written, that we have very good reason to know that our enemies have no prospect of aid of any kind from any European Power to assist them in their war against us. Holland seems much disposed to us, at least Amsterdam is securely with us, and that is a Powerful Part of their Union. The King of the two Sicilies has opened his Ports to us, and the English themselves Publish that Spain has notified to the Court of London that they will join France if the former does not acknowledge the Independence of America and make peace. But such is the distructive obstinacy and wickedness of our enemies, that they appear determined to try another Campaign, and therefore our efforts should be exerted to reenforce our Army with all possible dispatch.

The malice of our foes must recoil upon their own heads, if we are but wise and take the necessary precautions.

I am, dear Sir, yours with much

Affection and Sincerity

RICHARD HENRY LEE.

[Addressed & franked: "Honorable John Page, esquire | at Williamsburg, in | Virginia."]

"R. H. Lee"]

*Gen. Mordecai Gist.*

He was born in Baltimore, Md., 1743, and was appointed major of a battalion of Maryland regulars, in July, 1776, attached to the brigade under the command of Lord Stirling. In 1777 he was promoted to colonel, and was engaged in the battle of Germantown. In 1779 Congress appointed him a brigadier general, and he served with distinction throughout the war.

Camp Butter Milk Falls.

24 July 1779.

Dear Sir.

It is now two Weeks since my arrival from the S. Ward during which time my horses have had no Forrage of any kind whatever, which with the fatigue of a long Journey has operated so forcibly on the frame & Spirit of those Honest Creatures, that you might from appearances, venture to swear they have suffered all the pains of transmutation; pray my Dear Sir remedy this evil or enable the bearer my Brigade \* \* \* \* the

request of Mrs Alexander I have to inform you that she with her family & Miss Buchanan are in perfect health & beg their compliments to you

With due Respect

I am Sir

y<sup>r</sup> mo Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>

M. GIST.

*William Eustis, LL.D.*

He was born Cambridge, Mass., June 10, 1753, and died in Boston, Feb. 6, 1825. He entered the army as a regimental surgeon in 1775, and served during the Revolution. He was a member of Congress 1800-5 and 1820-3; Secretary of War, 1809-12; Minister to Holland in 1815; and Governor of Massachusetts in 1824-5, dying while in office.

Dear Craigie

There is so favorable an opportunity by Doctor Foster to remind you of your promise last Winter that I cannot suffer it to pass unimproved. For God's Sake (if not for the sake of your friends) let us have the pleasure to hear from you. Acquaint us what methods you pursue in Philadelphia rather what steps Congress imagine we shall very shortly be obliged to take. Is it not astonishing that regardless of the decent applications from the medical dep<sup>t</sup> they use us with a neglect which would weary the patience of Job? Do they imagine us stocks and stones? and are we not human nature?

I do assure you, my good friend our ill treatment is not seldom mentioned by officers of the line & its only palliative is that we have the honor to taste that inattention which the Saviours of this Country have long experienced:

I have not time to write Doctor Browne by this opportunity and will thank you to inform him that after signing one copy of the Paper I have transmitted it to Doctor Warren in Boston: and another to Dr. Turner in Norwich to be sent on by him to Dr. Adams &c at Providence: mentioning the necessity of their loosing not a post, but of forwarding them to D<sup>r</sup> Browne in Ph: as soon as possible. To Doctors Foster & Ledyard I have likewise given a copy which I imagine Doctor Foster is to take on with him to Philadelphia.

One good effect will at least be produced by this which from its nature must be our last representation to Congress. January will either give us some compensation for five the most valuable years in life expended in the service of the country, or it will send us home with a most useful lesson: and which alternative will conduce most to our advantages as individuals, I am utterly at a loss to determine

Adieu, my dear friend and believe me with affection y<sup>r</sup> friend & servant

WILLIAM EUSTIS.

22 October At Robinsons House

And<sup>r</sup> Craigie Esq.

[1779 near West Point]

*Gen. Joseph Reed.*

He was born Trenton, N. J., Aug 27, 1741, and died Philadelphia, March 5, 1785. A lawyer by profession, he took an ac-

tive part in the early movements in favor of independence. He was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, President of the first Pennsylvania Convention in 1775, and delegate to Congress. At the solicitation of Washington, in 1775, he accompanied him to Cambridge as his first Secretary and Aide-de-Camp. In 1777 he was appointed Chief Justice of Pennsylvania, and by Congress a Brigadier General—both of which he declined. He served as a volunteer at the battles of Brandywine, White Marsh, Germantown and Monmouth. He was a member of Congress in 1778, and a signer of the Confederation. He held many other important positions, and aided many philanthropic movements.

Jan 7. 1780.

Dear General

I received your Letter last Evening giving me Expectation of meeting you this Day: But not hearing from you, I have sent again to know whether I may expect you & when & whether any Persons on the Part of the Troop will make known their Complaints, which will most certainly be redressed on every reasonable Point, & when any Doubt arises the Construction to be in Favour of the Soldiers. The Proposals made by them on the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. seem to form a reasonable Ground of Accomodation. The 4<sup>th</sup> Article has been hastily drawn, their own Experience will convince them of the Necessity of some Alteration. It will be necessary also to distinguish those who have freely enlisted for the War, otherwise all Contract is at an End. & when they are requesting an Allowance for Depreciation agreeable to Contract, they certainly will not vindicate a Breach of Contract. We will also agree upon some equitable Mode of determining who are so enlisted which may be done by three Persons agreed on for that Purpose. But this will not exclude those from a Gratuity proportioned to their service. They may depend upon every just & reasonable allowance & I hope they have too much Honour & Spirit to tarnish their former good conduct by asking unreasonable Things, or those which are impracticable. Their honourable & patriotick Conduct this morning will be ever remembered & suitably rewarded if nothing unfavorable to their Country should happen. Should they refuse to serve their Country at this time it will be an eternal Reproach to the State to which they belong & to which they have done so much Honour by their Bravery & they must acknowledge that when they compare the Conduct of the State to them with that of most of the States, they have been better provided than others. Those who after being discharged choose to reinlist will be kindly received but they will be at their own Liberty to do so or not. If they choose to engage again they will be allowed Furlows to see their Friends when the Circumstances of the Army will admit—The Arrears of Pay, Depreciations, Cloathing &c. I mentioned in my former letter these will be taken care of immediately. Should they take any rash step after this all the world will condemn them, & they will condemn themselves: for America will not be lost, if they decline their Assistance to save her.

I am Dear Sir

Your Obed Hble Ser<sup>t</sup>

JO<sup>s</sup> REED

*Gen. David Cobb.*

He was born in Attleborough, Mass., Sept. 14, 1748, and died April 17, 1830. He graduated at Harvard College, 1766, and practised medicine in Boston and Taunton for several years. He was a member of the Provincial Congress in 1775 from Taunton, having as colleague Robert Treat Paine, afterwards a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He entered the army in 1777, and was appointed by Washington one of his Aides-de-Camp in June, 1781, in whose family he remained till the close of the war. He was appointed by Gov. Hancock a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and Major-General of the militia, in which positions he showed much ability and determination of character. In 1789 he was Speaker of the House of Representatives, and in 1793 elected member of Congress, Senator in 1795, and in 1809 Lieut.-Governor of the State. [See REGISTER, viii. 5.]

Boston April 25<sup>th</sup>. 1780.

Dear Col<sup>o</sup>.

I got to this Town, from Taunton last Evening, & to my very great disappointment found M<sup>r</sup> Lovell here, with my *great* Letter in possession, that I wrote you a month ago. I was damn'd mad in seeing him & more so, when I was inform'd that he had not sent my Letter, as it contains matters that you'd be fond of knowing—As I have just got to Town, can't be able to inform you any particulars relating to cloathing, small stores &c. but shall write you next post what scituation they are in—

M<sup>r</sup> Lovell's detention was occasioned by the lameness of his Horse, the poor fellow had bo't him and that cost him  $\frac{1}{4}$  part of his Depreciation & in three days after he was Kick'd in such a manner that he has not been out of the stable these three weeks—we Gent<sup>l</sup>. Officers are not able to purchase Horses every month—Lovell feels anxious about his being detain'd, but his scituation cou'd not be prevented.

Your Friend

Col. Jackson.

DAVID COBB

[Addressed: "Col Henry Jackson | Headquarters"]





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